GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3332
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008
POST OFFICE RECURRING DEPOSIT SCHEME
Deshmukh Shri Subhash Sureshchandra;Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of irregularities reported in the Recurring Deposit Account Scheme in Post Offices during the last two years and the current year alongwith the remedial steps taken in this regard, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to introduce changes in rules for the said Scheme, particularly in regard to slashing the period from minimum three years to one year for operating more business in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to tbe implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) Total 790 cases of irregularities have been reported in the Recurring Deposit Account Scheme during the last two years and the current year. State-wise detail is furnished in the enclosed Annexure.

As regards remedial steps taken I n this regard, it is submitted that the following remedial measures which are uniform in the Post Offices in the country, have been taken:

i. Agents have been prevented to act as messengers or identifier of the depositors for the purpose of withdrawal from Recurring Deposit Accounts.

ii. Maturity payments of Rs. 20000/- and above are now mandatory made by cheques.

iii. Agents and outsiders' access to the sensitive branches of Post Offices has been restricted. Security of Services containing data of RD Account Scheme has been tightened and access to the server room has been restricted and regulated.

iv. Information of transfer of all type of Savings Accounts including Recurring Deposit Accounts from one Post Office to another Post Office is reconciled at Central Pairing Unit at Delhi.

v. Passbooks of RD Accounts closed by single handed and double handed Post Offices are retained and are sent to their respective Head Post Offices to rule out any irregularity in such closures.

vi. The aforesaid recent instructions are in addition to operative, supervisory and control mechanisms prescribed in the Departmental manuals and instructions issued from time-to-time.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal currently under consideration of Government to introduce changes in rules of Post Office Recurring Deposit Scheme. The features of the Scheme are reviewed from time to time based on public feedback and to facilitate easier operation of the schemes investor friendly.